

MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 20, 2017

Members Present: Beverley Bevilacqua, Cynthia DeAngelis, Kerrie Fallon, Susan James, Karen Mathiasen, Michael Rademacher, Maureen St. Hilaire,

Members Absent: Liza Molina

Others Present: Darcy Devney, Advocate for people with disabilities
Louis Krodel, Advocate for people with disabilities
Paul Czech, Advocate for people with disabilities
Jack Jones, ADA Coordinator

Meeting Minutes of August 16, 2017:

The meeting minutes of August 16, 2017 were tabled until October 18, 2017.

Thank you for Beverley Bevilacqua:

The members of the Commission all thanked Beverley for her many contributions to the Commission as a member since March 2015. Everyone agreed that Beverley's presence on the Commission will be greatly missed.

Town Day 2017:

Maureen St. Hilaire discussed several concerns that individuals had at Town Day. Maureen also discussed a concern that she had regarding the entrance to the pedestrian path near the skating rink on Summer Street which is gravel making the entrance very difficult while pushing a carriage or while in a wheelchair. Maureen thanked everyone on the Commission that participated in Town Day. Maureen said that in her opinion the Kids on the Block Puppet Troupe were excellent and always attracted a large audience especially of children. Paul Czech said that because there was no electricity at the Commission Booth he was not able to demonstrate the hearing loop system. Paul said that the hearing loop system provides a cleaner sound with more bass than other hearing systems. Paul mentioned a friend of his that attended the Kennedy Center to listen to music and was very impressed with the quality of sound that was heard from their hearing loop system. Susan James recommended that the Commission purchase prior to next year's Town Day a new banner that will not block out the Commission booth.

Commission Membership:

Jack Jones said that there will be two openings on the Commission one to replace Beverley Bevilacqua and the other opening to replace Susan Tennant. Jack said that he has talked to Christine Bongiorno about the openings. Cynthia DeAngelis requested that a discussion of Commission Membership be added to the October Agenda.

Speaker Series:

Cynthia DeAgelis said that members of the Commission could talk on areas of disabilities that they are knowledgeable about in addition to the possibility of hiring individuals or finding volunteers to talk on other areas of disabilities. Cynthia suggested that Paul if interested could talk on hearing impaired issues including hearing devices and how effectively they might work. Cynthia also suggested that Susan James might be interested in talking about mental health issues. Cynthia said that she could talk about how to read an education plan, etc. Cynthia requested that the topic of speaker series be placed on the October Agenda.

SNAP Gap Campaign Meeting:

Jack Jones said that the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) meeting held on September 26th was held for the purpose of getting the word out into the Community regarding the availability of benefits provided by the SNAP program. Jack said that there are over 2,500 residents in Arlington who fall into the "SNAP GAP," meaning they qualify for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance but do not currently get these benefits. Jack said that the goal of this campaign is to get the 2,500 plus Arlington residents, mostly seniors, who fall into the SNAP gap connected with the government assistance for which they qualify. Jack said that Arlington residents who are interested in signing up for SNAP or who want to see if they qualify can call the Council on Aging at 781-316-3400 or visit the Health and Human Services website.

Community Access Monitor Training:

Jack Jones said that the next session of Community Access Monitor Training will be held at the Massachusetts School of Law in Andover on October 24-25, 2017.

Other Business:

The Commission discussed police response in cases of an individual with a mental health issue. Paul Czech said that October is National Disabilities Employment month. Cynthia asked Paul if he would write a brief article to be sent to the Advocate regarding October being National Disabilities Employment month. Kerrie said that it would be nice if our speaker series could be filmed for cable TV. Cynthia passed out copies of the Commission's new brochure for members to place at locations around Town.

Adjournment:

Maureen St. Hilaire made a motion to adjourn at 5:30 P.M.